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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/997,705	11/30/2001	Sergio Alberto Vinocur	9D-HR-19788	4297

7590

01/30/2003

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EXAMINER

TRAN, THUY V

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2821

DATE MAILED: 01/30/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Applicati n No.

09/997,705

Applicant(s)

VINOCUR ET AL.

Examiner

THUY V. TRAN

Art Unit

2821

-- The MAILING DATE of this c mmunication appears on the cover sheet with the c rrespondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 03 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 November 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 8-13 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 14 and 20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 2-7 and 15-19 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 30 November 2001 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 4.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Claims 1-20 are currently presented in the instant application according to the Applicants' filing on 11/30/2001.

Inventorship

1. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Drawings

2. The drawings are objected to because of the following informalities:

The drawings lines in all figures are not uniform and legible; and

The reference numerals/characters in all figures are not legible.

A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

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A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1, 14, and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Prada (U.S. Patent No. 4,30,025).¹⁷

As to claim 1, Prada discloses, in figure 1, a refrigerator comprising (1) a fresh food section [14], and (2) a freezer section [10]; wherein (i) each of the fresh food section and the freezer section has doors [16] and [12], respectively, having external surfaces and internal surfaces, and (ii) lights [11, 15] are mounted to the external surfaces and electrically coupled to a switch control device [20] (*or a processor-free light fade-out circuit as claimed*).

As to claim 14 and 20, Prada discloses, in figure 1, a refrigerator having light bulbs and a corresponding method comprising (1) providing a light bulb [11, 15], (2) providing a fresh food section [14], (3) providing a switch control device [20] (*or a processor-free light fade-out circuit as claimed*), and (4) electrically coupling the light bulb [11, 15] to the processor-free light fade-out circuit [20] (*via wires 54 in block 52; see figure 2*) such that the light is de-energized using the processor-free fade-out circuit [20] (see Abstract, lines 3-4).

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 8-13 are allowed.

6. Claims 2-7 and 15-19 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

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7. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

Prior art fails to disclose or suggest a processor-free light fade-out circuit being comprised of (i) a step-down circuit, (ii) a one-half integrator, (iii) a square wave generator, (iv) an integrator, and (v) a voltage comparator; wherein (a) the step down circuit is electrically coupled to the one-half integrator, (b) the square wave generator is electrically coupled to the integrator, and (c) the voltage comparator is electrically coupled to the one-half integrator and the integrator, as called for in claims 2, 15, and independent claim 8.

Citation of relevant prior art

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Prior art Ott et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,851,662) discloses a refrigerator having lighting source and a control switch.

Prior art Banicevic et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,199,400) discloses a refrigerator damper control and lighting assembly housing.

Prior art Ott et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,851,662) discloses a refrigerator having light and a control switch.

Prior art Ogata et al. (Patent No. JP406034266A) discloses a refrigerator having light and a lighting control level circuit.

Prior art Sumihiro (Patent No. JP405141863A) discloses a refrigerator having light and a lighting control circuit.

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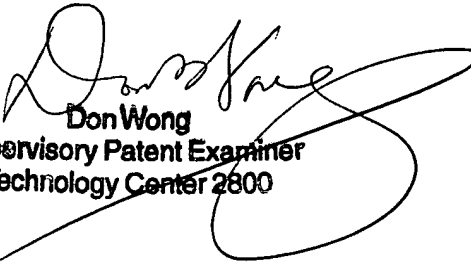
Inquiry

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to THUY V. TRAN whose telephone number is (703) 305-0012. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:30-6:00) First Friday Off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, DON K. WONG can be reached on (703) 308-4856. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 746-3807 for regular communications and (703) 746-3807 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

Thuy Vinh Tran
January 26, 2003


Don Wong
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Technology Center 2800